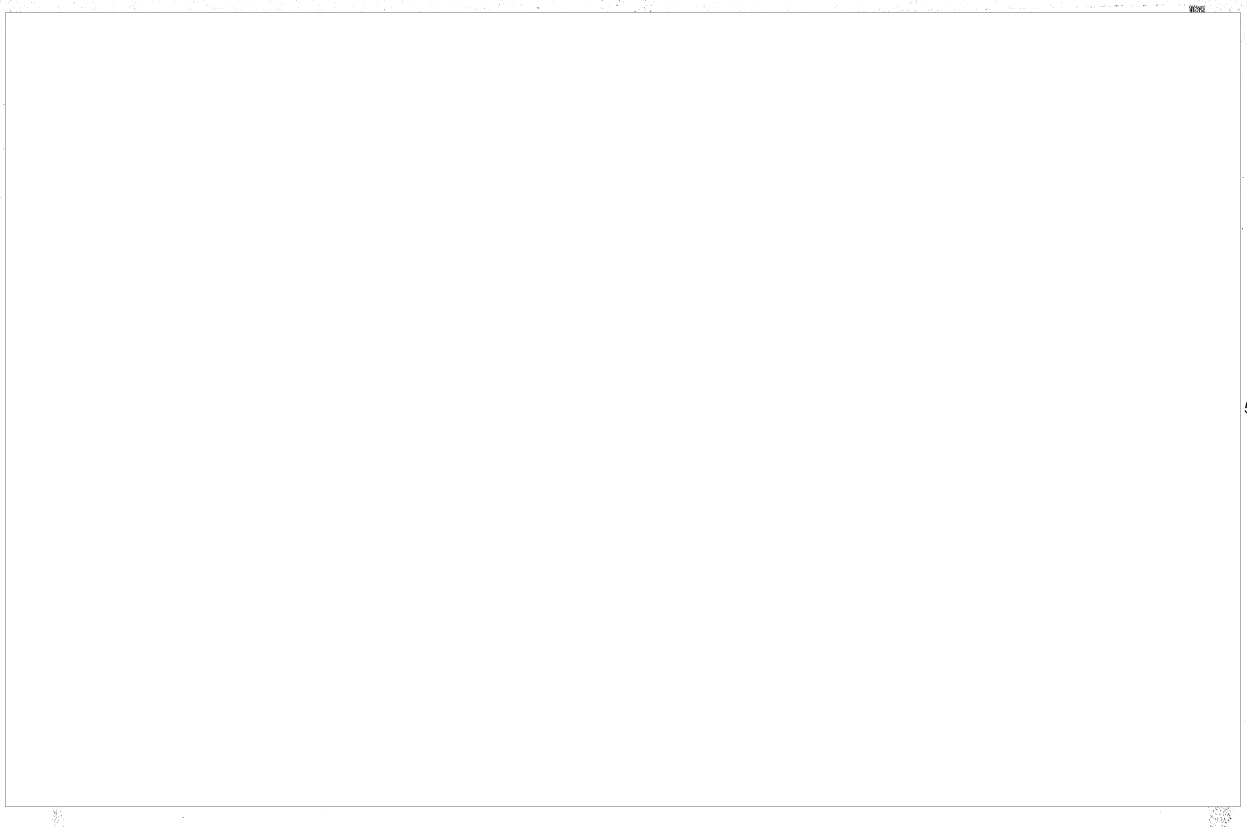
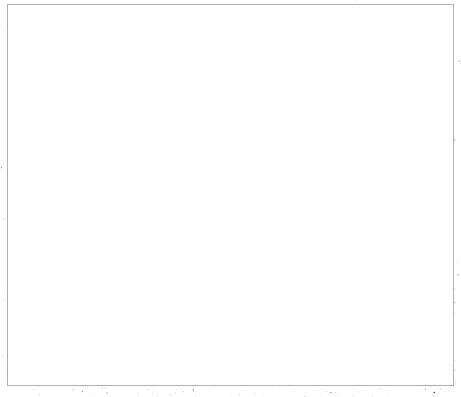


Press Comment on Spring Weather and Crops in Eastern Europe

Polish, GDR, Hungarian, Rumanian, and Bulgarian newspapers and periodicals

Spring 1952



PRESS COMMENT ON SPRING WEATHER AND CROPS IN EASTERN EUROPE

The following are summaries of information from the East European Press on Spring 1952 weather conditions and, where available, their effect on crops. Temperatures are given in Centigrade.

POLAND

On April 16, Krakow and Warsaw press reported that the Ministry of Agriculture expected the majority of wojewodztwos will have finished the spring sowing within the next few days.

It is also reported that in general the winter grains had come through better than expected. For instance in Poznan Wojewodztwo, 50 percent of the winter grain was good, 40 percent was classed as medium, and 10 percent would have to be fertilized; in Bydgoszcz Wojewodztwo, 80 percent of the winter wheat was good; in Gdansk Wojewodztwo, 50 percent of the wheat was good, 45 percent was classed as medium, and 5 percent was a complete loss; Lodz Wojewodztwo had only a 2 percent loss; in Olsztyn Wojewodztwo, the fall drought and March frosts destroyed 5 percent of the rye and 2 percent of the wheat; sowing had already been started in these areas and in the Warsaw and Katowice wojewodztwos which suffered most heavily from the fall drought.

The Krakow and the Warsaw press further reported that despite winter snow storms at the end of March and beginning of April, Spring arrived in mid-April and spring sowing was in full swing. Everyone was being exhorted to participate to the fullest in the Spring sowing to make up for the losses resulting from last year's drought which hampered winter sowing. Although local frosts have been reported in Podhale in southern Poland on 20-21 April and on 25 April, the sowing campaign in the Krakow area was reported as being almost completed. Because of the heavy snow fall, a small quantity of the Winter grain will have to be plowed under and replaced by potatoes.

Western Wojewodztwos were reported to have started the spring sowing during the latter part of April.

Cool temperatures were reported in mid-May. During the night of 16-17 May, a heavy snow fell in the Tatry covering Zakopane and the surrounding area. Heavy snow fall, strong winds and blizzards continued throughout the next day. Flowering trees were covered with snow. This was unusual for the second half of May. In Kasprowy Wierch, the snow was 30 centimeters and temperature was -8. Generally in the Tatry temperatures were below zero. Frost was reported along the entire seacoast with temperatures of -3. The cold wave was expected to continue over Poland with snow or snow and rain likely.

On May 19, Warsaw press reported snow in Warsaw with zero temperatures at 7 A.M. The same temperatures were noted in Lodz, Siedlce, and Snieszka. In Kasprowy Wierch the temperature was -6, in Biala Podlaska one degree, in Bialystok 2 degrees and in Przemysl and Jelenia Gora 9 degrees.

According to Merecki's Annals of Climatology in Poland, the last snowfall noted in Warsaw on 19 May was in 1880, and before that on 19 May 1871, on 1 May 1873, 4 May 1877, 5 May 1886, and 2-3 May 1935 the streets of Warsaw were covered with 30 centimeters of snow. Meteorologists claim that the weather in the last 50 years in May and June has been colder than in the previous period. This, however, has not in general had a damaging effect on crops. Even the frosts of short duration which are prevalent throughout the country, at present, except in the western areas, cannot harm the crops.

The State Hydrological and Meteorological Institute predicted frost for the entire country for the night of 20-21 May. The press throughout the country, although they claimed there was no danger to grain crops, issued a warning to farmers especially truck farmers, to protect vegetable plants and fruit trees. It was recommended that smudge fires be built in orchards from rotted wood, peat, straw, or other smoke producing materials, and that tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, strawberries, and

early potatoes be covered with newspapers and hotbeds covered with glass.

On 19 May, the Poznan Glos Wielkopolski reported rain followed by snow and hailstorm. Warsaw and Krakow papers predicted continued snow and snow and rain. Maximum temperature in the East 6 degrees, in the West 12 degrees, and in Warsaw 3 degrees.

On 21 May temperatures in Warsaw rose to 5 degrees, in Szczecin 9 degrees, Wroclaw 6, Poznan 5, and Mlawa 6. Warmer weather was expected with some precipitation, otherwise quite fair. For southern Poland, considerable cloudiness with passing rain or rain and snow, temperature in the uplands near zero, and -3 during the night.

The State Hydrological and Meteorological Institute explained that the cold weather was caused by an afflux over Central Europe and Poland of an Arctic wave from the Polar region. This phenomenon usually appears every year in the second half of May in a gentler form, however, this year it was much more severe. The last time such cold weather was noted in Poland was 25 years ago, 14 May 1925. It is expected that the cold will be followed by warmer temperatures about 22 May.

It was reported that tomatoes and cucumbers and to some extent potatoes suffered from the cold weather and snow but radishes, lettuce, spinach, and onions had not been affected. There are sufficient quantities of seedlings to replace the damaged plants when the weather has settled. The fruit trees have not been affected but the early strawberries suffered a 20 percent loss. On the other hand, the snow and frost have helped to destroy the pests especially in the fruit trees which had not been sprayed this year.

On 24 May, the Lodz newspaper, Dziennik Lodzki, reported that fear of damage to crops was groundless. The situation in Lodz Wojewodztwo was better than could be expected. The heaviest frost appeared in Rawa Mazowiecka, Skierniewice, and Wielun Powiats where the greatest damage was to cucumbers and beans. There is still time to replace these. Tomato plants did not freeze completely, they can be cut down and bear fruit faster than if they were replaced by new seedlings. Fifty percent

of the early potatoes were affected by frost, however, this will only delay the crop two weeks.

Of the grains, oats and barley came through fine. Only wheat was affected somewhat by frost in certain localities. Expert farmers claim it will revive and no loss is expected. The cold was also beneficial in that it destroyed entirely one of the greatest pests to rapeseed, and fruit trees, and other destructive insects.

On 21 May, the Zycie Warszawy reported slight damage to new tomato plants and cucumber, no damage to root crops. It also reported that snow and hail, which fell in some localities, was more damaging since it riddled the young leaves of sorrel and spinach.

On 27 May, the Warsaw Express Wieczorny reported no damage to the 30,000 tomato plants in the Municipal Nurseries.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The following is a summary of the East German press for May 1952, regarding weather conditions in the GDR:

During the second half of May cold weather prevailed throughout the GDR. However, this is apparent from the daily weather reports only, there is no indication of frost in news stories. The first report of ground frost appeared in the weather report of a Sachsen newspaper on 15 May. From 16-23 May, all newspapers indicate cold weather and ground frost at night in their daily weather reports. On 24 May, the Taegliche Rundschau reports mild weather coming from Scandinavia and no more danger of frost. Rain is reported during the next few days. On 28 May, the Taegliche Rundschau reports that the weather is still too cold for that time of year, and on 31 May that paper reports new disturbances coming from Ireland, making the weather conditions still uncertain. Night temperature for that date was 5 - 10° C. Newspapers of a later date are not yet available.

There are no reports whatsoever of the effect the cold weather had on crops. The Laender newspapers have their usual propaganda stories on the harvest which is to begin shortly and which must be fulfilled. A Mecklenburg paper reports that the plan-control inspection which took place in that Land on 18 May, found winter grain and rape seed well developed.

HUNGARY

Coverage of the daily weather reports in the Hungarian press (Esti Budapest, Szabad Nep, Nepszava, 29 April - 20 May 1952) reveals the approach of a cold wave, which hit the country on Saturday, 17 May. On Sunday, 18 May, snow fell on Galyateto which, however, is near the southern foot of the Matra Mountains, Hungary's highest (3,300 ft.) region.

From 29 April to 12 May, noon temperatures in Budapest ranged from 25 (2 May) to 20 (12 May) degrees, dropping to 12 degrees on 13 May. During the nights of 14 and 15 May, temperatures in Budapest ranged from 5 - 10 degrees; Nagykanizsa (Zala Megye, WSW Hungary) reported a low of 3 degrees and Miskolc (Borsod-Abauj-Zemplen Megye, NW Hungary) reported a low of 5 degrees. During the night of 19 May, a "big drop in temperatures" was reported. No occurrences of frost were mentioned.

During the period covered, there was no mention in the press regarding damages to crops.

The following are excerpts from an article entitled "Weather Report" by Alfred Zach (Termeszet es Technika, CX:5, May 1952, p. 314; published in Budapest) which may be of some value as background material.

Unusual weahter conditions prevailed during the early spring of 1952. The increase in average monthly temperature in various parts of Hungary is usually as follows:

	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May		
Magyarovar	0.0	5.2	9.9	15.1	degrees	Centigrade
Budapest	1.0	6.3	11.0	16.6	"	"
Debrecen	-0.8	5.0	10.3	16.0	"	"
Szeged	0.7	6.6	11.4	17.0	"	"

This year, the average temperature for March was 3-4 degrees below normal:

	Average March Temperature 1952	Degrees below Normal Average
Magyarovar	1.8	3.4
Budapest	2.8	3.5
Debrecen-	0.9	4.3
Szeged	3.6	3.2

Similar conditions prevailed during the first 2 weeks of April.

Three rather severe cold waves appeared during the early spring, with the first one starting on 5 March and lasting close to 2 weeks. The second cold wave -- much more severe than the first one -- hit the country on 26 March but only lasted for 4 days. Temperatures reached a low on 28 March, with frosts of -5 and -8 degrees. Such weather conditions at the end of March are unusual and occur approximately every 20 years (1931, 1918, 1883). The third cold wave appeared at the beginning of April. During the entire month of March, noon temperatures rose only 6 times above 10 degrees, and only on 30 and 31 March above 15 degrees. Altogether there were 9 frost-free nights during March.

The inclement March weather was especially unpleasant since it arrived after an unusually mild winter. On the average, a harsh early spring after a mild winter occurs at approximately 10-year intervals (1944, 1931, 1915).

Due to the low temperatures most of the precipitation fell as snow. As late as 2 April heavy snowfalls were reported. However, between the repeated snowfalls thunderstorms occurred (25, 26, 30, 31 March) in many parts of the country, and some localities even reported hailstorms.

In looking for the reason for these unusual weather conditions it was

discovered then an exceptionally severe winter had reigned over the Arctic Ocean and parts of Siberia. Towards the end of winter, it snowed several times in the USSR, and the air over the snow-covered regions cooled off considerably. At the beginning of March, temperatures in the Ural regions were around -25 and -30 degrees, and in Moscow it was -20 degrees. This cold air gradually moved west, and covered almost the whole of Europe by mid-March. After a short break on the cold weather, the temperature on Moscow again sank to -20 degrees toward the end of March. The consequent cold wave covering Europe caused morning frosts as far south as Madrid and the French Riviera.

The conditions described above caused a delay of nearly 6 weeks in the arrival of seasonable weather. There was no early spring, and the first reports of the blossoming of the hazelnut trees and the swarming of bees was received only at the end of March and the beginning of April, while migrating birds were seen only sporadically. The first swallows arrived as late as 30 March.

Due to the unusually long winter and the absence of early spring, some delay in agricultural work resulted. The weather was particularly detrimental for early spring sowing and also for the health of the workers. Lack of vitamins and of ultraviolet rays was felt to a considerable degree.

In a communique published in the Hungarian press on Saturday, 24 May, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of State Farms and Forests announced that some regions of the country had suffered some damage from the recent cold weather. Hardest hit were the truck produce and the root crops, while the bread grains apparently suffered only slightly from the frost. The following produce was listed as damaged: corn, cotton, potatoes, tobacco, sunflower seed, beans, soybeans, castor beans, tomatoes, paprika, other vegetables (including cucumbers and melons), grapes, and other fruits. Instructions about rehoeing and replanting are given for each produce.

Specific areas and extent of damage are not given. However, corn --

a Hungarian staple -- heads the list of damaged crops and, judging by the phraseology of the communique, has suffered extensively.

Under a government resolution, new seed is to be provided free of charge to state farms, producers' cooperatives, and independent peasants who have previously concluded contracts for the delivery of their crops.

RUMANIA

For the first time in several decades, Rumania experienced a phenomenal drop in temperatures during the middle and latter part of May, 1952. This information appears in a report issued by the Hydro-meteorological Institute, Bucharest, appearing in the 23 May issue of Universul, as well as in the daily weather reports, which, after a noticeable period of absence from the press, again appears with a semblance of regularity.

According to the Institute, the onset of the cold wave manifested itself by storms and heavy rainfalls on or about the middle of May. Although exact information is not available until the 20th of May, it appears that the period of lowered temperatures started on 14 May. By 16 May, the mass of cold air enveloped the entire country and temperatures increased slightly. This was followed again by freezing temperatures. During the period of 14-29 May, the temperatures reached -13 degrees on top of Omul Peak and -3 degrees at Cluj in Transylvania.

On 20 May, there was some rainfall in southern Rumania. Temperatures varied between plus 8 degrees and plus 14 degrees, falling at night to zero and plus 6 degrees. Strong northerly winds. On 21 May, the weather was cloudy and cold. Slight local rainfall in Moldova and the Danube plains and heavy snowfall in northern Transylvania. Temperature at 1400 o'clock wasplus 16 degrees at Mangalia (on the Black Sea) and plus 3 degrees at Predeal. During the night, temperatures varied between plus 3 and 5 degrees. The northern part of Rumania was covered with frost and heavy ice.

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On 22 May, temperatures dropped to -2 degrees during the night and plus 9 degrees during the day. Rain, sleet, and snow reported in the late afternoon. Moderate westerly and strong northerly winds. In Targul Mures there was sleet, on Omul and Rarau Peaks there was heavy snow, and at Craiova, Targoviste, Slobozia, Targu Magurele, etc. there were heavy rains. Temperatures were minus 1 degree at Bistrita and Craiova. The highest temperature in all of Rumania was plus 15 degrees at Arad and Bacau.

On 23 May, weather continued the same with clearer skies in all but the northern part of the country. Temperatures rose to plus 12 degrees and plus 22 degrees during the day and plus 2 to 6 degrees during the night. On 24 May, temperatures oscillated between plus 12 degrees and plus 22 degrees during the day and plus 2 degrees and plus 10 degrees at night. Heavy rainfalls in the greater part of the country, with moderate north-westerly winds. On 25 May, temperatures remained the same, varying between plus 10 degrees and plus 20 degrees during the day and plus 4 degrees and plus 8 degrees during the night.

There was no weather report for 26 May. On the following day, 27 May, temperatures increased to between 15-20 degrees during the day but dropped to plus 3-9 degrees at night. Heavy rains and generally cloudy weather. On 28 May, the night temperatures varied between 2 to 8 degrees and during the day between 15 and 20 degrees. Heavy westerly and north-westerly winds. On 29 May, the weather remained virtually the same. Night temperatures ranged between plus 2 to 8 degrees and day temperatures varied between plus 15 and 22 degrees. Marked westerly winds.

[redacted]

There is no indication in the pressof the extent of crop damage, if any, or what crops were affected. Also, there is no mention of any measures taken by state authorities to counteract the damage. On the contrary, press articles take an entirely different slant. They emphasize the fact that such a meteorological phenomenon as the present cold wave is extremely rare in Rumania, occurring only once in several decades, whereas in the

Western nations it is allegedly a common occurrence.

The press goes to great pains to furnish detailed technical information on the causes for such weather disturbances (i.e. mass of cold air rapidly moving in and meeting mass of warm air. etc.) and other meteorological jargon. It also shows pictures of people grouped around the bulletin board of the Meteorological Institute, awaiting further weather reports.

TEMPERATURE RANGE PER 24-HOUR PERIOD IN BUCHAREST AND VICINITY

	Minimum	Maximum
May 19	** - 3°	unknown
May 20	0°	+ 14°
May 21	+ 3	+ 16
May 22	- 2	+ 9
May 23	+ 2	+ 22
May 24	+ 2	+ 22
May 25	+ 4	+ 20
May 26	unknown	unknown
May 27	+ 3	+ 20
May 28	+ 2	+ 22

** In the mountaineous regions of northern Rumania, temperatures dropped to minus 13 degrees Centigrade.

BULGARIA

PRECIPITATION HIGH -- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo, 15 May 52.

/These articles appear in an unusual position in this paper, which itself does not always carry weather information./

On 14 May 1952 the temperature throughout Bulgaria was falling, cloudiness increased, and there was rain throughout the country. An average of 10-20 liters per square meter of rain has fallen in western sections, an average of 5-10 liters in flat areas of sourthern northern, and northeastern Bulgaria, and 0-5 liters along the Black SEa Coast and in the most southeastern part of Bulgaria. The greatest precipitation in the morning of 14 May was in Ikhtiman (40 liters per square meter), Yordanka Chankova in Elin Perlin Okoliya (40 liters), Dolni Lom in Belogradchik Okoliya (36 liters), Lopushna in Mikhaylovgrad Okoliya (29 liters), and in Ruzhintsi in Belogradchik Okoliya (28 liters), Precipitation continued with interruptions most of 14 May.

Between 11-13 May 1952 some parts of the country had from 4-5 liters of rain per square meter. This is true especially for the western half of the country. The rain will prove beneficial for the crops and will make farm work easy.

Rabotnichesko Delo, 17 May 52 -- Precipitation during 14, 15, and 16 May 1952 was on the average 15-25 liters per square meter in the lowest regions of northern Bulgaria, including Dobrudzha, between 25 and 35 liters in the highest regions of northern Bulgaria, between 15-25 along the Black Sea Coast, between 25-40 in southern Bulgaria, and between 20-30 in southwestern Bulgaria. Greatest precipitation was recorded in Lovech (71 liters), Slivenski Bani (57), Elkhovo (56), Yambol and Stara Zagora (58), Dimitrovgrad, Karlovo, and Teteven (55), Tryavna (52), and Topolovgrad (49). The rain was especially beneficial to spring crops, which during the first 10 days in May were subjected to a drought.